A Public Letter in Support of raised bill #6337

Raised House Bill No. 6337
AN ACT CLARIFYING THE SCOPE OF SOLAR ELECTRICITY WORK

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Dear Chairman Taborsak, Chairman Doyle and members of the committee,

Although there have been great improvements to solar electric equipment and methods, this technology is not yet ready for rough handling. If there are many unhappy customers of the solar industry and the public perception becomes "Solar doesn't work" the industry will die.

In order to properly install a photovoltaic system and make it perform properly much care and thought must be devoted to design, siting, and workmanship. PV license holders are specialists capable of doing many different types of tasks including licensed solar electrical work.

It is important to remember that a PV licensed contractor is an electrician, they are just limited electricians. Although they have fewer apprenticeship years than E license holders they are specialists and all of their training and education is concentrated in just one area.

PV license holders are fully qualified to perform the work they are licensed to do. This work includes the intertie of solar electric (photovoltaic) systems to the grid. As a practical matter it is necessary to pull permits with your license to operate a business of this sort.

I have been inspecting solar systems for the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. I am in an excellent position to see a wide sample of solar electric work in the State of Connecticut. In my opinion, the quality of

electrical work performed by PV license holders and E license holders is about the same. This includes conduit, wiring, and interconnection. In regards to solar specific tasks PV1 license holders excel.

An example of a solar specific task that must be performed well is siting. The incorrect siting of solar arrays is a leading factor of poor performance and inadequate power production. Siting a solar array is a difficult task requiring an understanding of the site and how to harvest the sun as resource. Poor siting will always lead to poor performance. This will eventually lead to a loss of consumer confidence and the demise of the industry. Poor siting will never cause an electric or building code violation.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this input to the Committee. Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Dziadul
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